

Library

Warrington
Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1952



Warrington
Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1952



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION I.	
General Description and District Statistics	8
SECTION II.	
Vital Statistics	9
SECTION III.	
Notifiable Disease Statistics	13
SECTION IV.	
Supervision of Food Supplies	16
SECTION V.	
Housing	19
SECTION VI.	
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:—	
Water Supplies	22
Rivers and Streams	22
Drainage and Sewerage	23
Public Cleansing	23
Salvage	25
Rodent Control	26
Smoke Abatement	26
Offensive Trades	27
Sanitary Accommodation	27
SECTION VII.	
Industrial and Commercial Hygiene	28
SECTION VIII.	
Sanitary Inspectors' Visits	29
SECTION IX.	
Local Health Authority and other ancillary Health Services ...	31
SECTION X.	
The National Assistance Act, 1948	38
SECTION XI.	
The Children Act, 1948	39

WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman:

Mr. J. J. P. PALIN Great Sankey.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. J. UPTON Penketh.

Councillors:

Mr. C. F. ALBINSON (until May) ... Winwick (Houghton).

Mr. D. H. BREW, J.P. Rixton-with-Glazebrook.

Mr. W. H. COTTRELL Poulton-with-Fearnhead.

Mr. W. C. FARRINGTON (since May) Woolston.

Mr. R. HANKINSON (since May) ... Winwick (Houghton).

Mr. J. E. MINSHULL (since May) ... Winwick (St. Oswald's).

Mrs. M. A. NICOL (until May) Woolston.

Mr. J. PERRINS, J.P. Burtonwood.

Mr. E. SMETHHURST, J.P. (until May) Winwick (St. Oswald's).

Mr. J. C. Warburton, J.P. ... Croft.

Mr. H. B. WRIGHT, J.P. Cuerdley.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Sanitary Inspector *W. A. MORRISON, M.R.S.I.,
M.Inst.P.C.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors *S. REEVES, B.A., Cert.S.I.B.
*W. T. DITCHFIELD,
Cert.S.I.B.

Clerical and General Staff Mr. J. BARLOW.
Mr. F. A. SMITH.

Pupil Inspector Mr. B. L. FOX.

*—Qualified Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.).

WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting for your perusal my Annual Report for the Year 1952, which incorporates, as in previous years, information on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors and the Health Department as a whole. It has, of course, been evident now for a number of years that success in the field of preventive medicine depends not only on the work of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, but on that of the Surveyor, Architect, Water & Sanitary Engineer, Health Visitor, and so on, without whose specialist knowledge our routine operational services in the environmental field could not attempt to function. I want to emphasise this point because it seems to me that even closer liaison and co-operation is called for with other Officers and Departments if full success is to be achieved, together with the breakdown of all barriers of what may perhaps be termed professional dignity or prestige which militate against complete success in our work. To use, if one may, a military analogy, the battle for positive health and well-being, including the prevention of disease, both mental and physical, can only be won if fought as a "Combined Operation" by all services.

The year 1952 has again shown a considerable increase in the estimated mid-year population, which is given by the Registrar General as 39,290, as compared with the 1951 Census figure of 36,835, and the estimated mid-year figure of 35,910 in 1951. These estimated figures relate to the "Home Population" of the district, and include (1) all civilian personnel; and (2) all military personnel, both British and foreign stationed in the area. As the proportion of these to the civilian population is relatively high, this means of course that the age and sex groupings in the Rural District will be profoundly influenced, and it is therefore not surprising to find that the death rate "comparability factor" supplied by the Registrar General is also high, i.e. 1.58. Similarly, the presence of so many persons living in huddled encampments, instead of in dwelling houses, must be borne in mind before

making comparisons with other rates and factors concerned with housing, e.g. overcrowding indices; and it is likely too, to have an appreciable bearing on the subject of illegitimacy.

The number of Live Births was 455, of which 432 were legitimate and 23 illegitimate, giving a "Crude Birth Rate" of 11·6 per 1,000 population, equivalent to 16·9 per 1,000 "adjusted birth rate" when multiplied by the "Comparability Factor" (for births) of 1·46.

This adjusted rate is thus very slightly higher than that for 1951, when the figure was 16·8 per 1,000. The number of illegitimate babies also increased from 17 in 1951 to 23 in the current year, giving an illegitimate birth rate of 51 per 1,000 total births; put in another way these births form 5·1% of the total live births, or 1 in every 20 babies is illegitimate. Although at first sight this appears somewhat high, it compares very favourably with the figures for many other districts in which there is no material number of foreign nationals.

Stillbirths totalling 16, giving a Stillbirth rate of 34 per 1,000 total births, have been more than double those in the previous years—a most disquieting state of affairs. This subject is one of such great complexity, there being so many medical and social causes at work, that he would be rash indeed who attempted to draw any firm conclusions as to the underlying reason for this change. As compared with the rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales (0·35 per 1,000) our comparable district figure becomes 0·4 per 1,000 or some 15% higher than in the country generally. But we may take heart when considering that last year's stillbirth rate of 14 per 1,000 total births was unusually low; in 1950, for instance, the rate was 45 per 1,000 total births, which instances the very wide fluctuations which may occur during the comparatively short period of one year in rates based on relatively small actual numbers.

The number of deaths assignable to the district was 225 (16 fewer than in 1951) giving a "crude death rate" of 5·7 per 1,000 population, and an "adjusted rate" of 9·0 per 1,000 when weighted by the "comparability factor" for deaths of 1·58. The adjusted rate of 9·0 per 1,000 thus compares very favourably with the figure of 11·3 per 1,000 population for England and Wales as a whole, and with the adjusted rate of 9·4 per 1,000 for the Rural District in 1951.

The "natural increase" of population during the year—the excess of live births over total deaths—was 230—a figure only 16 less than in 1951.

Turning now to an analysis of the principal causes of death we find once again that diseases of the heart and circulation, exclusive of the "Strokes," head the list, and account for no fewer

than 73 deaths out of the total of 225; of these 73, the number attributable to coronary disease was 34. Next comes the "Cancer group" (including all diseases of a malignant or cancerous nature) with 37; then disease of the respiratory system (excluding Tuberculosis) with 29; then strokes, with 22, accidental deaths, 22 (of which no fewer than 8 were due to road accidents), "other diseases" (20) and Tuberculosis (5), of which 3 were due to the Pulmonary type. Diseases of the heart and circulation (**inclusive** of the strokes) thus account for 42% or more than two-fifths of the total death roll, whilst 16% or one-sixth, are due to malignancy.

The accidental deaths—one in every 10 deaths—form this year an unusually—but very deplorable—high proportion of the death roll.

The "infant deaths"—totalling 14—present a happier picture, and show an infant death rate for the year of 31 per 1,000 live births, a rate which compares very favourably with that for England and Wales of 28 per 1,000, and with our local figure in 1951 of 39 per 1,000. The "neonatal deaths"—(of infants under 28 days old) were 9 in number, giving a neonatal death rate of 20—a very slight increase on last year's figure which is more than offset in the total infant death rate. No maternal deaths were recorded during the year—a most satisfactory circumstance.

Notifiable disease amounted to 634 notifications, as compared with 549 in 1951, an increase very largely accounted for by the higher incidence of Measles (480 cases as compared with 293 last year), which more than outweighed reductions in Whooping Cough, Pneumonia, Scarlet Fever and Dysentery. Of the rarer infectious illnesses we must note 2 cases of Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis), 1 of Typhoid or Enteric Fever (in hospital), 10 of Erysipelas, 13 of Dysentery (in hospital) and 3 of Puerperal Pyrexia. There were no cases of Diphtheria or Meningitis, or of food poisoning. Figures for Tuberculosis notifications totalled 28, of which 25 were of the respiratory, and 3 only of the non-respiratory type, as compared with a total of 24, comprised of 19 respiratory and 5 non-respiratory, in 1951; the increase is thus not one of material significance in relation to the increase in population.

The principal sanitary requirements of the district remain the same as in the last previous years, i.e. more and better housing, including the reconditioning of older but repairable properties; the early implementation of schemes for the main drainage and sewerage of Penketh, Sankey, Padgate and Woolston, with which is bound up the question of water-course pollution; and the prevention of nuisances associated with the operation of offensive trades.

The last sections of this report again deal with information (and statistics) on the personal health services provided by the County Council, under the provisions of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, of the Children Act, 1948, and the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Hospital Services of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, the Public Health Laboratory Service and other laboratory facilities. All such services are clearly intimately concerned with the maintenance of positive health and the prevention of disease, and in this way must have the closest associations with the Environmental Health Services provided by the "Local Sanitary Authority," through the activities of its Health Department.

It but remains to record with gratitude my sincere appreciation of the interest and support accorded to the Health Department by you, Mr. Chairman, and by every member of the Health Committee of the Council; and finally, to express my thanks to Mr. Morrison, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, to the additional Inspectors, and to the Administrative and Clerical Staff of the Department for their very loyal and efficient help in carrying out the duties of my appointment as Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SECTION I.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Warrington Rural District is situate in the South-west of the County of Lancaster. It is bordered on the North by the districts of the County Borough of St. Helens and the Urban Districts of Newton-le-Willows and Golborne; to the East is the Urban District of Irlam, and on the West is the Rural District of Whiston and the Borough of Widnes. The southern boundary, which is also the County boundary, is the Manchester Ship Canal, and the northern perimeter of Warrington County Borough.

The area of the district is approximately 35 square miles, being 14 miles from east to west, with a narrow waist of about two miles in the centre between Warrington and Newton, broadening to an average width of about six miles.

Agriculture is the principal occupation in the area, but there are in the more urban parishes a variety of industries, including tanning, light engineering, brewing, brick making and paint manufacture.

The area is, as a whole, comparatively low-lying with only a gentle undulation to relieve the otherwise flat landscape. The fall of the land is to the south, with the streams and brooks discharging into the River Mersey, which winds its way across the southern portion of the district only slightly to the north of the Manchester Ship Canal.

DISTRICT STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,840
Estimated population, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,290
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,859
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£181,467
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£740
Births assignable to district	...	...	...	...	...	...	455
Deaths assignable to district	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
“ Natural increase ”	...	...	...	...	...	...	230

SECTION II.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :	M.	F.	Total
Live Births — Legitimate	227	205	432
Illegitimate	16	7	23
	<hr/> 243	<hr/> 212	<hr/> 455

Live Birth Rate—"Crude" 11.6; "Adjusted" 16.9 per 1,000
Population; Comparability factor 1.46.

	M.	F.	Total
STILL BIRTHS	10	6	16

Still Birth rate—34 per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

DEATHS :	M.	F.	Total
General	134	91	225

Death Rates—"Crude" 5.7; "Adjusted" 9.0;
Comparability factor 1.58.

The "Adjusted" Death Rate is the "Crude" Death Rate
after adjustment by a "comparability factor" supplied
by the Registrar General.

INFANT DEATHS (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age):

Total Infant Mortality Rate—31.

	M.	F.	Total
Infant Deaths	8	6	14

Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants—31.

Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate Infants—Nil.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY :

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks—9.

Neo-natal mortality rate—20 per 1,000 total live births.

MATERNAL DEATHS — Nil.

Maternal Death Rate—Nil.

VITAL STATISTIC — COMPARATIVE TABLE.

YEAR	LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)		STILLBIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY		INFANT MORTALITY			
									TOTAL		NEO-NATAL	
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1952	455	*11.6	225	*5.7	16	34	Nil	Nil	14	31	9	20
1951	487	13.6	241	6.7	7	14	Nil	Nil	19	39	9	18
1950	429	13.0	225	6.8	20	45	Nil	Nil	12	28	5	12
1949	417	15.1	228	8.3	12	28	Nil	Nil	21	50	—	—
1948	448	16.5	213	7.8	11	23	1	2.17	16	35	—	—
1947	440	18.8	229	9.8	12	26	1	2.21	25	56	—	—
Average 5 years 1947-1951	—	15.4	—	7.9	—	27	—	0.9	—	42	—	—

*ADJUSTED

Live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.46) = 16.9 per 1,000
 Death-rate (comparability factor, 1.58) = 9.0 per 1,000

COMPARISON OF BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND
ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY.

		Warrington Rural. 1951.	1952.	England & Wales. 1952.
		Rate per 1,000 population.		
BIRTHS—				
Live	.....	13.5	11.6	15.3
Still	.....	0.19	0.4	0.35
DEATHS—				
All causes (Adjusted)	.....	9.4	9.0	11.3
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	.....	0.16	0.12	0.24
Influenza	.....	0.22	0.05	0.04
Smallpox	.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ac. Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis...		0.02	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	.....	0.22	0.15	0.47
NOTIFICATIONS—				
Typhoid Fever	.....	0.02	0.02	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	.....	0.00	0.00	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	.....	0.05	0.00	0.03
Scarlet Fever	.....	1.98	1.35	1.53
Whooping Cough	.....	1.89	1.35	2.61
Diphtheria	.....	0.00	0.00	0.01
Erysipelas	.....	0.17	0.26	0.14
Smallpox	.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	.....	8.16	12.46	8.86
Pneumonia	.....	1.31	0.45	0.72
Ac. Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis): Paralytic	.....	0.02	0.02	0.06
Non - Paralytic		0.00	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	.....	0.05	0.00	0.13
		Rate per 1,000 Live Births.		
DEATHS—				
All causes under 1 year of age	...	39	31	27.6
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	.....	0.05	0.00	1.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY—				
Abortion with Sepsis	.....	0.00	0.00	0.07
Abortion without Sepsis	.....	0.00	0.00	0.04
		Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births.		
NOTIFICATIONS—				
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	0.05	6.4	17.87

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 276; 126 of these were of persons whose usual place of residence was outside the district; these have been assigned to the areas in which they formerly resided.

75 deaths of persons normally residing in this area, but dying elsewhere, have been included in the total deaths properly assignable to this district.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES	134	91	225
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	—	3
Tuberculosis—other forms	1	1	2
Syphilis	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—	3
„ „ lung, bronchus ...	5	—	5
„ „ breast	—	3	3
„ „ uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	12	10	22
Leukemia, aleukemia	2	—	2
Diabetes	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	12	22
Coronary disease, angina	24	10	34
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart diseases	14	17	31
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Influenza	—	2	2
Pneumonia	2	4	6
Bronchitis	14	5	19
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	10	20
Motor vehicle accidents	7	1	8
All other accidents	11	3	14
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

SECTION III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1952.

There were 634 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. These tables show the number, by age groups, of Infectious Diseases notified, and the number removed to Hospital.

D I S E A S E	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 & Over	Total cases removed to Hospital	Cases occurring in Winwick Hospital
Scarlet Fever	53	...	2	6	32	6	7	...	18	...
Measles	480	12	115	151	190	5	4	3	8	...
Whooping Cough	53	7	13	21	10	2	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...
		Under 5	5—14	15—44	45—64	65 & Over				
Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...			...	1
Pneumonia	19	2	1	3	1	2			...	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	...	...	3	...	...			1	...
Dysentery	13	...	...	...	...	...			...	13
Erysipelas	10	...	...	2	4	...			...	4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES — COMPARATIVE TABLE

DISEASE	1952		1951		1950		1949		1948		1947		Mean of Years 47—51	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	53	—	71	—	193	—	126	—	30	—	45	—	93	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	480	—	293	—	244	—	143	—	326	—	198	—	241	—
Whooping Cough ...	53	—	67	—	95	—	26	—	106	—	11	—	61	—
Enteric group Fevers ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	5	1	1	—	2	—
Dysentery ...	13	—	57	—	8	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	14	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	2	—	1	1	2	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia ...	19	6	48	8	55	6	35	14	24	9	11	10	35	9
Erysipelas ...	10	—	6	—	3	—	6	—	3	—	4	—	4	—
Tuberculosis respiratory ...	25	3	19	5	14	11	14	7	13	8	12	7	14	8
Tuberculosis non-respi- ratory ...	3	2	5	1	3	1	3	1	8	1	3	—	4	1
TOTAL ...	662	12	573	15	617	21	357	23	521	19	290	17	470	19

TUBERCULOSIS.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
10 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
45	2	2	1	...	1	...	...	...
55	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	16	9	2	1	3	...	1	1
Grand Totals ..	25		3		3		2	

SECTION IV.

FOOD HYGIENE.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following details of food samples taken under the above Act, have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

A total of 169 samples was obtained; of these 128 were of milk (this total includes 5 Channel Islands milk) and the 41 others comprised:—

1 beef sausage.	4 malted milk cocoa
8 sweets.	beverage.
1 mustard compound.	1 epsom salts.
1 French mustard.	3 table salt.
1 pepper flavoured compound.	1 lemon cheese.
1 packet crisps.	1 semolina.
5 fish, canned.	3 sponge cake & sponge
1 pickled onions.	pudding mixture,
1 mixed pickles.	sweetened.
1 butter.	1 barley.
1 lemon curd.	1 mincemeat.
3 health salts.	1 edible cake decoration.

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

<i>Sample.</i>	<i>Result of Analysis.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
1 formal Channel Islands milk ...	Deficient 15% fat.	Referred to the Ministry of Food.
1 formal Channel Islands milk ...	Deficient 13·7% fat.	Ditto.
1 edible cake decoration	Contained 39% calcium carbonate.	Packers communicated with.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

All premises used for the preparation and storage of food-stuffs, grocers, butchers, ice-cream suppliers and bakehouses were inspected. The supervision of canteens in factories, etc., is included in Section VII of this Report.

ICE-CREAM.

Number of registered Producers	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Retail Vendors registered	...	...	...	...	17
Number of Bacteriological samples taken	...	...	...	...	82
Result of samples	...	...	...	...	Grade 1 22
					Grade 2 39
					Grade 3 14
					Grade 4 7

In general it may be taken that Grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory and we thus have a total of 21 unsatisfactory samples out of a total of 82.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Milk sampling has been regularly carried out and milk was tested for the presence of *B.coli.* and *B.tuberculosis*, and for its general purity and keeping quality by the Methylene Blue Test.

The following statistics indicate the extent to which this work has been pursued:—

Number of Retail Dairymen registered	13
„ „ Bacteriological samples taken	182
„ „ Samples satisfactory	163
„ „ Samples examined for <i>B.tuberculosis</i>	52
„ „ Samples found to contain <i>B.tuberculosis</i> ...	1
Number of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin-Tested milk	10
Number of persons licensed to sell Pasteurised milk ...	11
Number of Supplementary licences	21

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The large increase in the number of pigs slaughtered at the one large abattoir within the area has meant that so much time is taken up with inspection that other work has had to be neglected. Approval has been given by the Committee to appoint a further Inspector in order that this class of work does not throw the Department out of gear and it is expected that with the additional Inspector less strain will be put upon the existing staff.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	30,296
Number inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	30,296
All diseases, <i>except T.B.</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	30
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	879
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	3%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	276
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	998
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4·2%

OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

29 tins cooked meat—weight	138	lbs.
46 „ fruit	54½	„
22 „ vegetables	27	„
20 „ milk	17	„
3 „ soup	3	„
32 tins various foodstuffs.		
5 packets cheese.		
1 jar Guava curd.		
2 tins Fynnon salts.		
450 lbs. rice.		
38 „ Haricot beans.		
25 „ oatmeal.		
150 „ split peas.		
1 carcase mutton	31	„

SECTION V.

HOUSING.

Little change has taken place in the overall housing position since 1951 and this problem remains as probably the one most difficult of solution.

Many new houses are required to rehouse people living in lodgings and overcrowded conditions and many more to rehouse those living in houses which are beyond economic repair. The secondary feature to this problem is the need for repair of the existing houses.

Repair works have been in the main carried out by means of the nuisance section of the Public Health Act, 1936. Every effort has been made to have necessary repair works carried out by informal means, as recourse to formal statutory action tends not only to alienate whatever goodwill exists between the Owner and the Department, but also in the first instance to substitute a financial penalty for the repair work.

There is no doubt that existing rent levels for old property places an almost unsurmountable barrier before the majority of owners. Legislation in this sphere would be of inestimable value for the improvement of decaying houses.

The statistics below indicate new housing progress.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

	Prefabricated		Traditional permanent.
	Temporary.	Permanent.	
Local Authority	Nil	Nil	67
Other bodies and persons	Nil	Nil	24

INSPECTION OF EXISTING PROPERTIES.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 394
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1,385
2. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —
3. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 394

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

1. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 317

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:— | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts:*

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 96 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By Owners | 92 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | 4 |

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 1 |

LEGAL ACTION.

COURT CASES:

<i>Address.</i>	<i>Nuisance.</i>	<i>Court decision.</i>
Case No. 1: Caravan.	No sanitary accommodation, water supply or means of refuse disposal; also over-crowded.	21st May, 1952. (1) Case adjourned. 4th June, 1952. (2) Nuisance Order to remedy within 30 days. 6th August, 1952. (3) Fine of £2 plus 10/- per day suspended for 14 days. 17th September, 1952. (4) Ordered to pay a fine of £5 within 14 days or be committed to prison for one month. 5th November, 1952. (5) Committed to prison for three months, the sentence to be suspended for one month.

<i>Address.</i>	<i>Nuisance.</i>	<i>Court decision.</i>
Case No. 2: 3 houses.	Various housing defects.	17th December, 1952. (1) Nuisance Orders granted. Work to be completed within six weeks. Costs of 9/6d. in each case obtained.
Case No. 3: 15 houses.	Various housing defects.	17th December, 1952. (1) Application for adjournment until March as the majority of the work was in hand. Application granted.

SECTION VI.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

A piped supply of water extends throughout the area, with the exception of some isolated farms and cottages. The principal supplier is Warrington Corporation, but a small area of Cuerdley parish is supplied by Liverpool Corporation.

In general the supply is good both as to quantity and pressure. However, serious shortages have occurred in both Burtonwood and Great Sankey. Strong representations have been made to the Warrington Corporation, in particular regarding the supply to Knockers Green Estate, Great Sankey.

From Public Mains				From Private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc.	
PARISH	Direct to houses			By means of stand pipe	
	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population
Burtonwood	619	4	16	7	21
Croft	412	4	15	3	7
Cuerdley	39	—	—	—	—
Penketh	1223	—	—	—	—
Poulton	1465	—	—	2	7
Rixton	553	—	—	1	4
Sankey	1389	1	1	2	7
Winwick plus Mental Hospital...	432	1	2	5	12
Woolston	697	—	—	—	—
Totals	6829	10	34	20	58

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The area is traversed from north to south by two main streams—the Sankey Brook and the River Glaze. Across the southern boundary runs the River Mersey, the eventual outlet for these streams. There are several smaller brooks winding through the area, but none of any particular note.

The fact that these brooks exist seems to have provided a wonderful opportunity for building development—a ready-made drainage system to hand. The rapid development of the area since the middle twenties has now changed these brooks into open sewers.

The development of a proper sewerage system is required to remove the extensive pollution and, until this occurs, then our rivers and streams will remain as such in name only.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage from over 70 per cent. of the properties in the area consists of treatment in a so-called septic tank with a subsequent discharge of the effluent into the nearest ditch or stream. The effluent, in the majority of cases, resembles far too closely the sewage at the intake pipe, and the consequent fouling of the ditch into which it pours does not need any description.

The cleansing of these septic tanks and ditches is carried out by the Surveyor's Department by means of a mechanical cesspool emptier.

The sewage disposal systems in the area are small and out-of-date. A small area of willow beds in Burtonwood deals with the sewage from that parish but, in actual fact, little benefit is derived from this treatment. A small settling tank and circular filter deals with an estate in Glazebrook but, again, the effluent is unsatisfactory. The remaining sewage drains via septic tanks of varying size and construction to the open sewers, i.e. the streams.

Several schemes are in hand for the sewerage of the more urbanised parishes.

A scheme for the parishes of Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Woolston has been approved and preliminary works for the project are being put in hand.

A scheme for the parishes of Penketh and Great Sankey has been prepared and approval given in principle but no starting date has yet been fixed.

The Sankey Valley scheme is progressing, and when these schemes are finally completed a major improvement will have taken place within the area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of refuse, together with its ancillary functions by the Local Authority, is under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The collection service, which is weekly, is carried out by special-type refuse vehicles, with loaders' cab. Due to the fairly long distances that machines have to travel from the depot, the inclusion of the loaders in the driver's cab is obviously a desirable feature. Certainly the weather protection and additional safety provided appear to be thoroughly appreciated by the workmen.

The collection of pail contents is carried out weekly by a similar machine. A detachable tank is mounted on rollers inside the body, a method which simplifies both loading and unloading. Supplies of both liquid and powder disinfectants are carried in

order that pail compartments and pails may be treated as required. This procedure is far from satisfactory, but is probably as effective as any other under the circumstances. The only solution to this problem is the conversion of the pail closets as rapidly as possible to a water-carriage system.

All workmen are provided with protective clothing, and although this provision is by no means cheap, yet it is a feature that is now a necessity if workmen are to be encouraged to engage in this class of work.

The provision of dustbins and sanitary pails is carried out by the Local Authority as a rate charge and enables unsatisfactory bins and pails to be replaced with the minimum of delay. The storage of refuse at the home, pending collection, must obviously be in a hygienic manner, and this can only be effected by the provision of a proper receptacle. B.S.S. bins are purchased in bulk and delivered weekly. Weekly reports are received from each driver of the bins and pails requiring replacement, the addresses are checked in a card index file, the bin or pail is inspected, and delivery receipts are signed by the householder. Where a bin is being mis-used, a visit is paid by an inspector, when the householder is warned that they will be held liable for replacement. Three sizes of bins are issued— $3\frac{1}{4}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 cubic feet, the size of bin being decided by the type of house and size of family.

A depot has been provided in Hawthorne Avenue, Woolston, and a recent two-bay extension has been added to the main structure. The building, of modern construction and design, enables vehicles to be properly cared for and serviced.

A scheme for the quarterly inspection of vehicles by a sub-committee at which points are awarded for maintenance and cleanliness has provided a competitive spirit in this work, and the monetary prizes awarded appear to take second place to the pride which the winning driver takes in his achievement. This scheme has raised vehicle care and maintenance to a higher level and ensures that each driver becomes fully cognisant of what is required of him.

The disposal of dry refuse takes place at several tips throughout the area, and, although sometimes they are not as "controlled" as one would wish, they are a decided improvement over past methods of disposal. A Chaseside Light Excavator-cum-Bulldozer is employed to excavate, soil and cover the tipping sites. Wire netting screens are provided to prevent nuisance by blowing paper, and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the sites are satisfactory.

The gradually-increasing number of houses of the semi-detached and detached type, and the conversion of hostel sites into flats has, because of long carries, considerably increased the collection time since the end of the war. A special twice weekly collection of refuse is made from certain hostel sites. For these additional services a special charge is made.

STATISTICS :

Machines employed—

Austin 2-ton general purpose lorry	1
Karrier Bantam with “ Derby ” body	2
Karrier CK.3, with “ Derby ” body	3
Karrier CK.3, Refuse Collector, with standard steel body	1
Commer van	1
Chaseside Excavator	1
Trailers	4

Workmen—

Number of Drivers	7
„ Labourers; all classes	21
Foreman	1

Dustbins and Pails—

Number of Dustbins provided	515
„ Pails provided	137

Loads tipped by the R.A.F., Croft, at Woolston Refuse
Tip:—

156 loads £19 10s. 0d.

SALVAGE.

The direct collection of Salvage has been confined solely to waste paper and cardboard. Due to the scattered nature of the area and the number of tipping sites, it is not considered that other materials could be separated and sold at a profit.

The collection of waste paper is made by means of large, covered trailers behind a refuse collection vehicle. The provision of a smart trailer serves a two-fold purpose—a good advertisement, and, secondly, a more suitable collection method. The system of using a number of sacks swaying drunkenly from the back of a vehicle reminds one of a rag and bone merchant, and a Local Authority must surely use a much more prepossessing method.

Shops and large business premises are visited once each week by a special vehicle. The sorting of paper at the tips has had to be confined to cardboard boxes, due to the unsatisfactory condition of the paper after mixing with the household refuse.

Kitchen waste is collected by a private contractor from two hostel sites. These sites were canvassed, bins were hired out to the contractor, and arrangements made for suitable collection times. No complaints have been received of this service.

STATISTICS :

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	Value
				£ s. d.
Amount of waste paper sold...	232	2	1 ...	2,423 9 9

The weight of kitchen waste collected was approximately 60 tons.

The salvage figures represent an increase of 39 tons, 5 cwts., 1 qr. on the 1951 figures, at a decreased value of £152 16s. 1d.

RODENT CONTROL.

The recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are pursued in this sphere of work. One operative is engaged whole-time and one part-time, and the methods used are those recommended by the Ministry. Both the operative and the general foreman have undertaken special instruction courses organised by the Ministry.

All Local Authority's properties, refuse tips, sewerage works, etc., were regularly inspected and treated. The sewers and sewer ditches were test-baited and treated where necessary.

On private properties, treatment is carried out by agreement. Private houses are charged where the costs are recoverable, but all business premises are charged the full cost of treatment. The two offensive trade factories are both classed as areas of reservoir infestation, and both have private contracts in force with service operators.

This work is now the duty of a Local Authority, and effective measures must be undertaken to ensure that the rat population is kept to a minimum. The interest of the Central Authority is obvious by the fact that a 50 per cent. grant on approved expenditure is obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

STATISTICS :

The number of infestation treatments were as follows:—

	Major.	Minor.
Business premises	—	46
Private dwellings	—	95
Local Authority	—	90

In addition, 179 manholes were test-baited.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Regular observations have been made of all factory chimneys for smoke emission. No serious problem is created in the area, but where necessary informal steps have been taken to bring to the notice of the management the nuisance being created. In each case, prompt action has been taken. It is pleasing to note that in this branch of work pleasant and effective relations are maintained with the factory managers, so that formal proceedings have been completely unnecessary.

VERMINOUS AND FILTHY PREMISES.

The days when the serious infestation by bugs, of numbers of houses, seem to have gone, certainly so in this district. The residual toxicity of D.D.T. seems to have provided a long-awaited answer to the problem. Very few houses required treatment and, of these, the infestations were not heavy.

Occasional filthy houses have been dealt with, and what appears most surprising is the fact that the houses in question are of comparatively modern construction.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two offensive trades in the area, both of which require considerable supervision. The trades carried out are fat extraction, bone boiling, and glue making. One factory is also combined with a Knackers' yard and produces pet foods.

Control is exercised by means of issuing quarterly licences only to each factory. This procedure is considered more effective than the issue of statutory notices.

To prevent flies, each factory was asked to inaugurate a fly spray patrol, whereby the whole of the premises were treated with D.D.T. insecticides twice per day. This system has proved of marked benefit.

Considerable overloading of offal took place at one factory and caused a serious nuisance during the summer. The licensee was interviewed by the Public Health Committee and warned that his licence would not be renewed unless immediate steps were taken to put his premises in order. A considerable improvement was made but it is regrettable that this type of premises requires so much supervision and inspectorial time.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION OF HOUSES AND SCHOOLS.

The fact that the majority of houses in the area are of comparatively modern construction, and that ditches and streams were available for the discharge of effluents has, in spite of the lack of sewerage systems, been responsible for the majority having water closets with treatment by means of a septic tank. Over 70 per cent. of the houses in the district are so fitted. The remaining number are provided with pail closets. Middens and ashpits are now things of the past, and one can but hope that the same could be said for pail closets.

Where pail closets exist in isolated cottages this form of sanitation, in the majority of cases, appears reasonable, but when a large number are concentrated in one area—in particular, Burtonwood village, steps should be taken to enable conversions to take place without delay.

The offer of the Council to the Schools of a 50 per cent. grant towards the cost of conversions has borne fruit, and only one remains with pail closet sanitation—Padgate C.E. School. This School is expected to have conversions carried out within the coming year.

SECTION VII.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

FACORIES ACT, 1937.

There are now 39 factories registered in the area, the principal ones being engaged in tanning, light engineering, wire-rope making and brewing. Routine inspections have been made and the attention of H.M. Inspector of Factories has been drawn to matters within his jurisdiction.

Particular attention has been paid to the standards of hygiene practised in the canteens. Some of these are maintained and run to the highest standards, but in others, constant supervision is necessary. A special approach is made to each manageress and staff to ensure that scrupulous attention is paid to personal hygiene. Circulars and posters have been provided for use within the canteens and kitchens.

Good co-operation has existed with all factory managements and in no case has there been any necessity for statutory action on any of the matters for which the Local Authority is responsible.

The duty of issuing certificates for the means of escape in case of fire is one for which this department is responsible. These certificates need to be amended from time to time, due to the alteration in the number of employees and building extensions.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Certain duties in the inspection of shops devolve on this Authority and certain others on the County Council. The inspectoral duties of the County Council have now been delegated to this Authority. The procedure is for half-yearly reports to be sent to the County on the matters for which it holds responsibility for action to be taken where necessary. It is unfortunate that this procedure tends to discourage the Inspector concerned from taking more than a cursory interest in this sphere of work.

It has not been found necessary to take statutory action to secure any of the requirements under the purview of this Council, all recommendations having been dealt with informally.

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE STORAGE.

The number of Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium are as follows:—

Number of Licences to store Petroleum	55		
„ gallons of storage capacity	76,510		
„ Licenses to store Carbide	7		
Total amount of Carbide permitted	4,142-lbs.		
Number of Licences to store other spirits	5		
Total amount of Fees paid:—	£	s.	d.
Petroleum	41	5	0
Carbide of Calcium	1	15	0
Cellulose	1	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£44	5	0
	<hr/>		

SECTION VIII.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS,
1952.

Water Supply	54
Drainage	341
Stables and Piggeries	37
Offensive Trades	53
Fried Fish Shops	26
Tents, Vans and Sheds	167
Factories	62
Workplaces	1
Bakehouses	4
Refuse Collection	333
„ Disposal	182
Defective Bins	515
„ Pails	137
Rats and Mice	20
Schools	4
Shops Act	223
Salvage	178
Petroleum	56
Housing Applications and Visits	221
Miscellaneous	74

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses inspected	394
Visits paid to above houses	1,385

UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Number of houses inspected	23
Visits paid to above houses	54

OVERCROWDING.

Number of houses inspected	2
Visits paid to above houses	3

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Number of houses inspected	4
Visits paid to above houses	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	58
Visits <i>re</i> disinfection	27
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	9

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Visits to Slaughter-houses	226
„ „ Shops and Stalls	4
„ „ Other premises	1
Total Meat Inspection Visits	231
Visits to Butchers	8
„ „ Grocers	21
„ „ Greengrocers and Fruiterers	21
„ „ Dairies and Milkshops	7
„ „ Ice-Cream premises	33
„ „ Food-preparing premises	25
„ „ Restaurants	30
Milk samples:—	
Bacteriological	190
T.B.	52
Ice-Cream samples	71
Miscellaneous food visits	12

SECTION IX.

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.

Pathological specimens, samples of milk, food, "swabs," etc., for bacteriological investigation are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service, either at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, or the Laboratory at Monsall Green, Monsall, Manchester. The chemical analysis of water supplies and of samples of food and drugs is undertaken at the County Analysts's Department, County Offices, Preston.

(2) HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS.

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board: Warrington and District Hospital Management Committee).

The district contains no general hospitals within its boundaries, but it is, of course, well served by those within the County Borough of Warrington; the Warrington Infirmary and the General Hospital, Warrington, for general and specialised types of cases, e.g., orthopaedic and maternity cases; the latter type of cases from the Rural District are admitted also to the Warrington Maternity Home, Victoria Park, Latchford. Cases of infectious disease (other than Smallpox) requiring hospital treatment are accommodated at the Isolation Hospital, Warrington; cases of Smallpox, should these occur, are admitted to the special Smallpox Hospital at Rock Ferry, Cheshire, belonging to the Port of Liverpool Sanitary Authority.

In addition to the above, accommodation in hospitals administered by the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee is not uncommonly utilised by residents in the Rural area, particularly the County Hospital, Whiston, for maternity cases. Finally, cases requiring highly specialised treatment for pediatric, orthopaedic, ophthalmic, gynaecological and ear, nose and throat defects may be admitted by arrangement to any of the "teaching hospitals" attached to the Universities of Liverpool or Manchester.

(3) AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Full responsibility for the Ambulance Services to be provided under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act rests with the Lancashire County Council, as the Local Health Authority. This Rural District, enclosing as it does the northerly boundaries of the Warrington County Borough, for its greater part is serviced by ambulances of the County Borough operating on behalf of the

County Council, the parishes so served being those of Penketh, Great Sankey, Burtonwood (part), Winwick (part), Croft, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Woolston, and Rixton-with-Glazebrook. The remainder of the district is served directly by the County Ambulance Service from the ambulance stations at Newton-le-Willows (Newton-le-Willows 3134), which deals with the northerly parts of the parishes of Burtonwood and Winwick, and at Mill Brow, Widnes (Widnes 2121), which deals with the Parish of Cuerdley.

Cases conveyed by ambulance from the Newton-le-Willows station during the year totalled 758, of which 50 were emergency, 703 general and 5 cases of infectious disease. In addition, the County Borough Ambulance Service, on behalf of the County Council, transported 130 emergency, 1,030 general and 24 infectious cases, making a total of 1,184, and a combined total of 1,942.

(4) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

School Health Service: School Clinics.

Schoolchildren in attendance at schools within the Rural area who require advice and treatment at a school clinic are referred to the Clinics at Widnes, Prescot, Earlestown and Cadishead, where general medical advice and treatment facilities for minor ailments, ophthalmic and orthopaedic defects are available. Resignations of Dental Surgeons, unfortunately at present irreplaceable, have rendered dental inspection and treatment impossible, but the position shows encouraging signs of improvement.

Child Welfare Centres.

Sessions are held at the Infant Welfare Centres detailed below. At these centres medical and nursing advice is available for all infants and for children of pre-school age, also for expectant mothers and those recently confined, in relation to matters affecting their general health. Supplies of a variety of infant foods, vitamin preparations, etc., are also available at cost price. In addition, in special cases, schoolchildren may be examined and parents advised, although, of course, this is not a regular feature of the work as such centres.

(a) BURTONWOOD:

Methodist Sunday School, Phipps Lane.

Medical Officer—Dr. D. K. McTaggart.

Health Visitor in charge—Miss M. Williams.

Sessions—Weekly, each Thursday, 10-0 a.m. - 12 noon.

(b) CROFT:

Memorial Institute, Mustard Lane.

Medical Officer—Dr. D. K. McTaggart.

Health Visitor in charge—Miss Jenkinson.

Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Mondays, 2-0-4.0 p.m.

(c) PADGATE :

Methodist Sunday School, Padgate Lane.
 Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss C. M. Smith.
 Sessions—Weekly, each Wednesday, 2-0 - 4-0 p.m.

(d) PENKETH :

Methodist Sunday School, Chapel Lane.
 Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss W. Henry.
 Sessions—Weekly, each Monday, 2-0 - 4-0 p.m.

(e) SANKEY :

Sankey Day Nursery, Marina Avenue.
 Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss W. Henry.
 Sessions—Weekly, Friday, 2-0 - 4-0 p.m.

(f) WINWICK :

Methodist Church Hall, Golborne Road.
 Medical Officer—Dr. D. K. McTaggart.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss C. M. Smith.
 Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Thursdays, 2-0-4-0 p.m.

During the year under review the following attendances were made at the above Welfare Centres:—

Number of individual children attending:

Under 1 year of age	503
1 - 2 years of age	146
2 - 4 ,, ,,	288
Total	<u>937</u>

Number of attendances made by children:

Under 1 year of age	4,673
1 - 2 years of age	1,313
2 - 4 ,, ,,	1,673
Total	<u>7,659</u>

In addition, 44 expectant mothers made 120 attendances at these Centres.

(5) MIDWIFERY ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) Domiciliary. One whole-time domiciliary midwife and five district nurse/midwives are engaged on this work within the Rural District, in the employment of the County Council, which is both the Local Health Authority and the Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts. These ladies normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their home, but the principle of the expectant mothers' free choice

of midwife (as of doctor) is well established. Each has motor-car transport at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls, and to carry apparatus for analgesia.

The names and addresses of these ladies are:—

WHOLE-TIME MIDWIFE:

Mrs. M. A. Lawton, 21 Marina Avenue, Sankey.

WHOLE-TIME NURSE/MIDWIVES:

Miss A. G. Carter, 409 Manchester Road, Paddington.

Mrs. T. F. McConnell, 56 Haley Road, South, Burtonwood.

Miss L. Humphries, 20 Brookside Avenue, Sankey.

Mrs. D. Woodward, 23 Bevin Avenue, Culcheth.

Mrs. V. M. Gibbins, 300 Padgate Lane, Padgate.

A total of 134 babies were born in their own homes during the year; with possibly one or two exceptions, their mothers were either actually delivered, or attended, by the midwives and nurse/midwives detailed above. The fact that there have been but three cases of puerperal pyrexia, and no maternal death associated with childbirth is surely the highest tribute to the skill and care bestowed on the mothers both during and after confinement.

(6) HEALTH VISITING ARRANGEMENTS.

This work has been carried out by three whole-time and fully-trained Health Visitors, who combine with health visiting duties those of School Nurse. These domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision and of the health education of the families, are, of course, complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above.

The names and addresses of the Health Visitors are:—

Miss M. Williams, 16 Ruskin Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.

Miss W. Henry, 38 Greens Road, Whiston, Prescot.

Miss C. M. Smith, 9 Worsley Road, Walton, near Warrington.

(7) HOME NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Home nursing is undertaken by five whole-time nurse/midwives who formerly practised as “District Nurse/Midwives” and have since agreed to be transferred to the Local Health Authority’s Staff and to continue their beneficent roles in the homes of the sick. The demand for their services has grown very considerably during the year, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, an extension of the staff is contemplated within the near future.

The names and addresses of the Nurses are:—

Miss A. G. Carter, 409 Manchester Road, Paddington.

Mrs. V. M. Gibbins, 300 Padgate Lane, Padgate.

Mrs. T. F. McConnell, 56 Haley Road South, Burtonwood.

Miss L. Humphries, 20 Brookside Avenue, Sankey .

Mrs. D. Woodward, 23 Bevin Avenue, Culcheth.

(8) HOME HELP ARRANGEMENTS.

This is a “permissory” service provided by the County Council through the No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public. Its aim is to provide domestic help, when required, by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, pregnancy, mental deficiency, or to assist in the care of a child or children under school-leaving age. The service has expanded considerably during the year as members of the public have become more fully aware of the facilities provided.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time “Helps”; no whole-time workers are employed. A number of “Helps” are, however, paid a retaining fee in consideration of their undertaking to be available when required.

(9) MENTAL HEALTH ARRANGEMENTS.

The district is covered for this purpose by the duly Authorised Officer of No. 10 Health Division and by a lady mental health worker, who deals with the various aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts and the Mental Treatment Act. The names and addresses of these officers are:—

Mr. P. D. Parker, 12 Kenyon Lane, Lowton, near Warrington.

Miss M. Hargan, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory, Winwick.

(10) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE (INCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND THE PROVISION OF CONVALESCENT ACCOMMODATION.

(1) Responsibility for the above rests with the Local Health Authority partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis; “illness” includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of nursing and ancillary equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home

or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

(2) One of the two Tuberculosis Health Visitors who formerly worked in the district resigned to take up other employment in the fall of the year, with the result that the remaining visitor, Miss A. E. Webster, has been very heavily engaged, endeavouring to cover duties not only in this district but in the Widnes and St. Helens areas also. Despite every effort to recruit a suitable replacement no appointment had been made by the end of the year.

ON STAFF OF HEALTH DIVISION No. 10—Divisional Health Office,
The Old Rectory, Winwick:

Miss A. E. Webster, 11 Oaklands Road, Liverpool, 19.

<i>District</i>	<i>Chest Clinic</i>
Burtonwood and Collins Green.	St. Helens (branch) Chest Clinic, 90 Hardshaw Street, St. Helens.
	Sessions: Tuesday afternoon — 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

As regards Health Education (a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness), it is pertinent here to emphasise that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the Local Health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant and should, in my view, continue to be exercised.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria are available to all who desire it for themselves or for their children, either through the family Doctor (who undertakes it at his home or at his surgery as part of his duties to the patient) or, on request, by appointment. Such services may be obtained at one of the Immunisation sessions which are held at approximately monthly intervals in schools at Great Sankey, Penketh and Padgate. Immunisation of infants and small children is also undertaken—when circumstances warrant—at the Child Welfare Centres at Burtonwood, Winwick, and Croft.

As regards the Immunisation position, there are no grounds for complacency, whilst the vaccination state is even more deplorable.

During the year, a total of 248 children under 15 years of age completed the full course of Immunisation, of which 235 were under the age of five years. In addition to the above, 279 children, all of school age, received reinforcement or "booster" injections, making a grand total of 527.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population (under the age of 15 years) in an immunised state as at 31st December, 1952 was 56% as against a figure of 60% for the child population in No. 10 Health Division as a whole.

In contrast to the above, only 96 children under one year of age underwent primary vaccination, of which cases all but 10 were successful, whilst seven persons over the age of 15 years who received primary vaccination were all vaccinated successfully. In addition to the above, a total of 34 persons were re-vaccinated successfully.

If one deducts from the total of 487 live births in 1951 belonging to the district the 14 infant deaths in 1952—this means that out of the 473 survivors only 96 underwent primary vaccination, or approximately one in every five babies. This small—this dangerously low—proportion can only be viewed with serious dismay.

SECTION X.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of this Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case also, is on a divisional basis. The main provision of Part III relate to the provision of accommodation for persons who, by virtue of circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, are without lodging; and to Welfare Services in general for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities.

The approved scheme of the County Council in regard to Welfare utilises very fully the services rendered by the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation.

Section 47 of this Act prescribes the procedure whereby aged and infirm persons, if not receiving adequate care and attention in their own homes, may, by a Court Order, be removed to a suitable hospital following a hearing by the Court of evidence in support of a certificate issued by the Medical Officer of Health after close consideration of all the circumstances of the case.

Section 50 is of importance in that it places on this County District Authority the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when "it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority."

SECTION XI.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

In the main, this Act provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of this Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day-to-day operation of the service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis.

The Warrington Rural District lies administratively partly within the responsibility of the Children's Officer for the Huyton area, and partly within that of the Children's Officer for the Stretford area, the former covering the Parishes of Cuerdley, Sankey, Penketh and Burtonwood, and the latter those of Houghton-with-Arbury, Croft, Padgate, Woolston and Rixton.

I am happy to say that our relations with both these officers, and with their staffs, are most effective and cordial.

The Huyton Area Children's Officer is:—

Mr. S. H. Pitt, Nutgrove Villa, 76 Derby Road, Huyton,
near Liverpool.

The Stretford Area Children's Officer is:—

Mrs. D. C. Robers, Hyde Lodge, Clarendon Road, Eccles,
near Manchester.
